

***Cusickiella douglasii* (Gray) Rollins**

Douglas' draba
Cruciferae (Mustard Family)

Status: State Threatened

Rank: G4G5S1

General Description: Perennial from a long taproot, scapose. Caudex branching underground. Leaves erect, thick and leathery, oblanceolate, midrib very prominent, ciliate and often with a few trichomes on lower surfaces, $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long. Scapes to 2 inches tall, soft-pubescent, hirsute or glabrous. Inflorescences nearly sessile, 2 to 20 flowered. Petals white. Fruiting pedicels soft-pubescent or glabrous $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long, slender. Ovules 2 per locule. Seeds plump, nearly orbicular, about $\frac{1}{16}$ inch in diameter.

Identification Tips: *Cusickiella douglasii* is the only member of the genus *Cusickiella* occurring in Washington. The taxon may be confused with *Draba densifolia*. *Cusickiella douglasii* has white flowers and 1 or 2 seeded silicles. *Draba densifolia* has yellow flowers and silicles with more than 2 seeds.

Phenology: Flowers April through June.

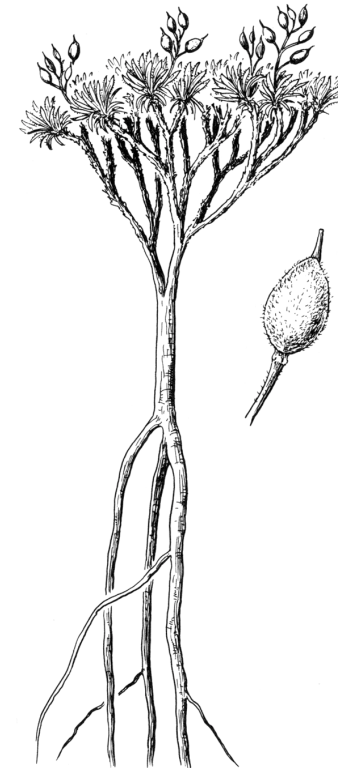
Range: Idaho and northwestern Utah to southern California, north to Washington. In Washington the taxon is only known from Klickitat County in the Columbia Basin physiographic province.

Habitat: Windswept rocky ridges, granitic rock scree, loose volcanic hillsides, red barren hills, rocky flats and serpentine ridges. In Washington, the taxon occurs on open rocky ridges and buttes on thin sandy-gravelly soil over basalt. Associated species include Douglas' buckwheat (*Eriogonum douglasii*) and Hood's phlox (*Phlox hoodii*). The elevation of both known sites is 2800 feet.

Ecology: *Cusickiella douglasii* grows in a wide variety of habitats throughout its range and the differences in the habitats are paralleled by differences between the populations. As a result, a broad amplitude of variation is found in the species as a whole (Rollins 1993).

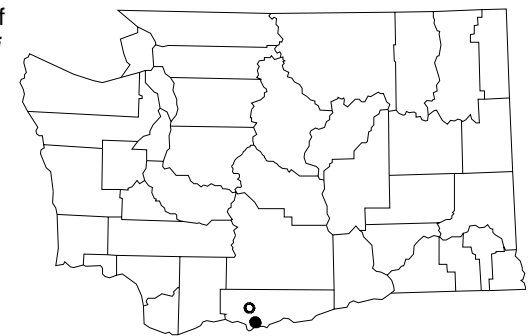
Cusickiella douglasii

Douglas' draba



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Known distribution of
Cusickiella douglasii
in Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

Cusickiella douglasii

Douglas' draba



Cusickiella douglasii

Douglas' draba

State Status Comments: There are only two extant populations in Washington.

Inventory Needs: Additional inventory is needed in appropriate habitats in southcentral Washington.

Threats and Management Concerns: Grazing is a potential threat in Washington, as is ORV use.

Comments: Synonymous with *Draba douglasii* Gray var. *douglasii*.

References:

Hitchcock, C. L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1964. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 2: Salicaceae to Saxifragaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 597 pp.

Rollins, R.C. 1993. *The Cruciferae of Continental North America. Systematics of the Mustard Family from the Arctic to Panama*. Stanford University Press, Stanford, CA.